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China Lifts Ban on U.S. Beef Exports

Report Categories:

Agriculture in the News
Livestock and Products
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Report Highlights:

On September 22, 2016, China's Ministry of Agriculture and General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine lifted the longstanding Chinese ban on U.S. beef exports (Official Announcement Attached). The lifting of the ban includes both boneless and bone-in beef from cattle below 30 months of age. However, to fully restore access for U.S. beef exports, the respective governments must still negotiate an export protocol and conduct an audit to verify the protocol before exports can resume.

General Information:

On September 22, 2016, China's Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) and General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) lifted the longstanding Chinese ban on U.S. beef exports. The lifting of the ban includes both boneless and bone-in beef from cattle below 30 months of age. The lifting of this ban is the first step in a three-step process to restore U.S. beef exports to China. When all three steps are complete, only then will U.S. beef be allowed to be exported to China.



Based on Post's current understanding, the next step in this process is for the relevant U.S. agencies to negotiate a mutually acceptable export protocol with China's relevant agencies (led by AQSIQ). This export protocol will specify the conditions that U.S. beef exporters must meet when exporting to China. It is anticipated that in addition to veterinary health requirements (generally inspection and quarantine concerns), the protocol will include also traceability requirements.

Post's current understanding is that after the protocol is established between the United States and China, a Chinese delegation composed of AQSIQ and MOA experts will visit the United States and conduct an audit against the established protocol. Upon the successful completion of the audit, U.S. beef that complies with the protocol will be allowed to be exported to China.

Post is actively engaged with MOA and AQSIQ to gather more information about this announcement and develop a timeline for conducting the next steps.

(See below for the Unofficial English Translation of the Announcement)

Unofficial English Translation of the Announcement Lifting the Ban on U.S. Beef

**Announcement No. 2447 of the Ministry of Agriculture and General Administration of Quality
Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine**

According to the result of a risk-assessment and as of the issuance date of this notice, the ban set forth in the 2001 Announcement No. 143 of MOA and (former) State Administration for Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine on U.S. bone-in beef and boneless beef under 30 months is lifted with conditions. U.S. beef that complies with China's requirements on traceability and inspection and quarantine is allowed to be exported to China.

The requirements for traceability and inspection and quarantine of U.S. bone-in and boneless beef under 30 months will be formulated separately.

**The Ministry of Agriculture and General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and
Quarantine**

September 22, 2016